



FRIAS Express - February 2025

Dear FRIAS Community,

The first newsletter of the new year offers a glimpse of what's ahead at FRIAS: a visit from a Nobel Prize winner at FRIAS, a new academy for postdocs, and of course all kinds of news from our fellows, funding programmes and events. Enjoy the read, and all the best for 2025.

FRIAS welcomes Nobel Laureate Anne L'Huillier



On 13 March 2025, Anne L'Huillier, recipient of the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics, will deliver the 31st Hermann Staudinger Lecture at the University of Freiburg. In her talk, she will discuss some of the key steps in the field of attoseconds, the shortest timescale we can measure directly. Warm welcome to all interested!

[Read more](#)

FRIAS Website Relunched with New Features and Design



As part of the university-wide website relaunch, FRIAS has completely redesigned its online presence. The updated website is intended to be clearer, more user-friendly and includes several new features. Feel free to share your feedback with us at communications@frias.uni-freiburg.de.

[Read more](#)

Call for Applications: YAC Memberships 2025-2028



Early career researchers with 2–6 years of postdoctoral experience are invited to apply for 10 memberships at the Young Academy for Cultures and Societies Research (YAC). YAC is part of the Freiburg Postdoctoral Academy (FPA) at the University of Freiburg and FRIAS, alongside the Young Academy for Sustainability Research (YAS). The program, on the topic "The Good Life – What Makes a Good Society," runs from October 2025 to September 2028.

[More about the Freiburg Postdoctoral Academy](#)
[Call for Applications: YAC Memberships](#)

Call for Applications: FRIAS Conferences



Deadline approaching! PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers are invited to apply for funding to organize a conference held at FRIAS. Each conference can host up to 35 participants. Applications are open until 28 February 2025.

[Read more](#)

Focus on our Fellows



News, Publications & Awards

A glimpse into some recent achievements of our fellows and alumni. Do you want to tell us about news, publications, awards or anything else that could be interesting for the FRIAS Express? Please let us know via communications@frias.uni-freiburg.de.

The Directors of the [Balzan-FRIAS Project in Global History](#), Distinguished FRIAS Fellow Jürgen Osterhammel and Stefanie Gänger, have published the book [Rethinking Global History](#) in November 2024.

Elisabeth Piller (FRIAS Fellow and member of the FRIAS project group "Post War Periods") has been successful in the [European Research Council \(ERC\) Synergy Grants](#).

Philipp Höfele (YAS Fellow) has published a [special issue](#) on the topic "Societal implications of bioinspired technologies" in the journal "Technology in Society", together with researchers from the University of Freiburg's livMatS Cluster of Excellence.

Three members of the first YAS cohort have recently published noteworthy work: Hussam Hussein co-authored a [Nature article](#) on how global academic institutions evaluate researchers for promotion. Sarah May co-published [Hands, Skills, Tools. Learning the Craft of Violin Making](#). Rita Sousa-Silva wrote on a study on [Outdoor health interventions for refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers](#).

Departures and Arrivals at FRIAS

The following fellows are new at FRIAS or have left us/will leave us soon:

Arrivals

Prof. Dr. Patricia Faraldo Cabana (University of A Coruña, Criminal Law)
 Dr. Sergio Francisco Romero (University of Texas at Austin, Linguistic Anthropology)
 Prof. Dr. Erwan Rousseau (Aix-Marseille University, Mathematics)
 Prof. Dr. Onookome Okome (University of Alberta, African Studies/Literature and Cinema)

Departures

Dr. Jonatan Kurzwelly (Leipzig Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, Anthropology)
 Dr. Jenny Benham (Cardiff University, History and Medieval Studies)
 Dr. Robert Spindler (English and German Literature)
 Prof. Dr. Birgit Hopfener (Carleton University, Art History)
 Dr. Arantzazu Saratzaga Arregi (University of Applied Arts Vienna, Philosophy)
 Dr. Apoli Bertrand Kameni (Université Omar Bongo/Sciences Po Lyon, Political Science)
 Dr. Atreyee Banerjee (University of Freiburg, Physics)
 Prof. Dr. Patricia Faraldo Cabana (University of A Coruña, Criminal Law)
 Prof. Dr. Erwan Rousseau (Aix-Marseille University, Mathematics)

Graphic Novel: Sustainability for Young People



Five members of the first generation at the Young Academy for Sustainability Research (YAS) have published a graphic novel titled 'World in Transition – Five Stories About the Environmental Crisis'. The project aims to communicate interdisciplinary insights from sustainability research to young people. The publication is available in German.

[Read more](#)

Save the Date: Conference "Human Rights in the Balance"



The Connecticut/Baden-Württemberg Human Rights Research Consortium (HRRC) invites members to its 4th conference on "Human Rights in the Balance: Safeguarding Social and Environmental Sustainability." The conference takes place from 17 to 18 June 2025. Further details on the conference program will be made available in late February 2025.

[Read more](#)

"The Axis of the Aggrieved": Freiburger Horizonte with Michael Thumann



How do authoritarian leaders use feelings of resentment for their political agendas? At the last lecture of our event series "Freiburger Horizonte", Michael Thumann, foreign affairs correspondent for the German weekly newspaper DIE ZEIT, explored this question through numerous examples from Russia, Turkey, Poland, and the United States.

[Watch on Youtube](#)

Directors' Corner

It has been quite a smooth transition into the new year at FRIAS. With one major project successfully completed and another promising endeavor about to begin.

In December 2024, the [newly designed FRIAS website](#) went live. It provides new glimpses into the institute showcasing its role as a hub for innovative research. Among the new features are a Fellow Finder, which provides a clearer overview of our former and current fellows (still under construction, with new features to follow), and a Funding Finder providing individualized information on FRIAS' Funding programmes. As always, becoming more user-friendly and providing better information to you is one of our commitments. Don't hesitate to let us know about your experiences.

And what is about to begin? [The Freiburg Postdoctoral Academy \(FPA\)](#) is on its way! Building upon the Young Academy for Sustainability Research (YAS), the Young Academy for Cultures and Societies Research (YAC) will become the FPA's second branch in 2025. YAC will tackle one of today's most pressing questions, requiring interdisciplinary research in the Humanities and the Social Sciences: The Good Life – What Makes a Good Society? The [call for applications](#), addressing postdoctoral researchers from Freiburg and all over the world, is open until 15 April 2025. If all goes smoothly, we hope to welcome 10 YAC members in October 2025, each for a three-year term. In this context, we are also pleased to welcome Karolin Viseneber as our YAC coordinator and new member of the FRIAS team.

Meanwhile, the academic year is in full swing. The FRIAS Colloquium has sparked inspiring discussions on diverse topics, from methods of comparison in (not only) historical research to the concept of 'energy' in discourse analysis. Another highlight was the discussion on Attoseconds as the smallest measurable time unit. This theme will receive further attention on 13 March 2025, when Nobel Laureate in Physics 2023, Anne L'Huillier, will deliver the [31st Hermann Staudinger Lecture](#).

And of course, we are pleased to announce that the [Scientific Advisory Board](#) has made its decision regarding our new fellows for the Academic Year 2025/26 – while applications for the [FRIAS Early Career Conferences](#) are still welcome until 28 February. That's it for the beginning of a year that calls for a lot of optimism! We look forward to staying in touch with you!

Warm greetings,
Ralf von den Hoff



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